

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 OES-02 CU-02 EB-03 INR-05 CIAE-00

L-01 DODE-00 PM-03 NSCE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 ACDA-10 IO-03

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DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:DCUNNINGHAM/MRC

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R 050207Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 028168

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: USINJC, PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH-INDIAN RELATIONS

REF: STATE 023841 (LIMDIS)

1. BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR SIDDIQI, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT, CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FEBRUARY 2 TO DISCUSS RECENT INCIDENTS ON INDO-BANGALEE BORDER. SIDDIQI SAID THAT THE BORDER ATTACKS WERE CONTINUING. HE ALSO SAID THAT GOI DENIALS OF INVOLVEMENT AND ALLEGATIONS THAT THE BDG WAS FABRICATING CHARGES FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL PURPOSES WERE FALSE. THE BDG DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE MOTIVATION FOR THESE REPEATED ATTACKS, SIDDIQI SAID, BUT VIEWS THEM VERY SERIOUSLY.

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2. ATHERTON RESPONDED THAT USG REGRETTED INDICATION OF

NEW TENSIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE PROGRESS MADE DURING THE DECEMBER BILATERAL TALKS. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ADDITIONAL TALKS COULD LEAD TO A SOLUTION TO BORDER PROBLEMS. WHILE REITERATING THAT USG DOES NOT WISH TO BECOME A MEDIATOR BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH, WE NEVERTHELESS WOULD CONTINUE TO USE SUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES TO CONVEY BENGALI CONCERN TO GOI. USG HAD, FOR EXAMPLE, ALREADY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER

BORDER INCIDENTS IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH INDIAN OFFICIALS (PARA 6 REFTTEL) WHO DENIED THAT GOI WAS GIVING SUPPORT TO MISCREANTS AND SUGGESTED THAT STORIES OF BORDER RAIDS WERE EXAGGERATED. ATHERTON ADDED THAT WE HAD NOTED NOTHING IN RECENT INDIAN PRESS THAT SUGGESTED A MOTIVE TO USE MILITARY PRESSURE AGAINST BANGLADESH, AND WE SHARED BANGLADESH'S SURPRISE AT REPORTS OF FRESH INCIDENTS. KISSINGER

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